programme and with a view to concentrating on its core business, SAIL has initiated the process of conversion of the following assets into joint ventures :

(i) Power Plants at Bokaro, Durgapur and Rourkela

— 2×60 MW Capitive Power Plant-II at Rourkela Steel Plant and the Central Power Training Institute at Rourkela

— 2×50 MW Captive power plant-II at Durgapur Steel Plant

— 122 MW (2×55 MW + 12 MW back pressure turbine) Captive Power Plant-I, 3×60 MW Captive Power Plant-II and steam generating capacity of 660 MT/hour at Bokaro Steel Plant

(ii) Oxygen Plant-II of Bhilai Steel Plant

(iii) Salem Steel Plant (SSP), Salem

(iv) Alloy Steels Plant (SP), Durgapur

(v) Visvesaraya Iron & Steel Plant (VISL), Bhadravati

(vi) Fertilizer Plant at Rourkela

(vii) Indian Iron and Steel Company (IISCO).

SAIL has debt of Rs. 20,851 crores as on 31-3-1999.

(c) SAIL has been earning profits since 1984-85, though it incurred losses in 1998-99 and 1999-2000.

(d) to (f) Steps taken by SAIL to check losses and become profitable include, *inter alia*, financial restructuring, rightsizing of the organisation, reduction in operating costs, change in market strategy and reprioritising of capital expenditure, besides the assets restructuring mentioned above.

Request for Transponder from A.P. Government

*593. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any request from the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh for providing a transponder on the INSAT-3B for providing high band-width communication for socially-relevant programmes;

(b) if so, when did Government receive the request;

(c) what steps the Ministry has taken so far in this regard.

(b) whether it is a fact, that Government agreed to provide the Government of Andhra Pradesh with 2 Mbps, band-Width; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Deptt. of Telecom Services(DTS) received the request on 24-11-1999. In reply to this DTS advised the Andhra Pradesh Govt. on 15-12-99 to forward their application in this regard along with necessary technical details for examining the feasibility of network. TDS has not yet received any reply or application/technical details from A.P. Govt. for examining the same.

(d) and (e) 2Mbps band-width on terrestrial media e.g. optical fibre cable system has been provided from Hyderabad to district headquarters of Andhra Pradesh.

Jhuggi surrounding Alaknanda Complex

*594 SHRI S.AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there are number of Jhuggis clusters in Alaknanda Complex which are fast multiplying as a result of which the atmosphere of entire area has become polluted and sanitation hazard;

(b) whether steps are being taken to clear these illegal encroachments and to provide relief to the residents of Alaknanda;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes , Sir.

(b) to (d) A drive has been launched to relocate the slums and resettle them at the appropriate areas for which lands have to be acquired and developed. Therefore, no time frame can be indicated at this stage. Every effort is being made to intensify the drive to ensure land development of Delhi and relocate squatters at the appropriate site, at the earliest.